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THE

Thompson

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SPEECH

OF THE LORDS

Lord HAVERSHAM

GHOST.

MY LORDS, I have the honor to inform you, that this Debate concerning the Duke of Marlborough has ended from the Dead, to vindicate that great Man; For the Dead only do Justice to the Living, as the Living do only to the Dead. Such Proceedings will disturb Nature, it is self speak. The Question is, Whether the Duke shall have this House? I take it to be beyond Question, that he shall have it. Why then do you think to bargain with him, for what he has already purchased? Do you think to over-aw into your Measures by deterring it? Do you expect to bring him over to your Party, by giving him his due? Which is but to bribe a Man with his own Money.

Is it not unreasonable, that it should be rational and Court-like to reward him? And that to calculate him the most, should be thought the properest way to reward him? the Decency of this House broke thro', to dishonor him; to find, (Price One Penny.)

Question

The SPEECH of the Lord Haverſham's GHOST.

MY LORDS, OF THE

THE Grave has put an end to my Ambition; my Malice will be no more sharpen'd by Disappointments; nor my Judgment mislead by Prepossession; the Colours of Reason, and the Disguises of Art are remov'd. I see things in their true State, and have now a Resolution so to represent 'em.

I am in the first place to beg pardon of my much injur'd Son, and then to inform your Lordships, that this Debate concerning the Duke of *Marlborough* has rais'd me from the Dead, to vindicate that great Man: For the Dead only do Justice to the Living, as the Living do only to the Dead. Such Proceedings will disturb Nature, and make Silence it self speak.

The Question before your Lordships is, Whether the Duke shall have the Thanks of this House? I take it to be beyond Question, that he deserves 'em: Why then do you refuse 'em? Do you think to bargain with him, for what he has already purchased? Do you think to over-awe him into your Measures by deferring it? Do you expect to bring him over to your Party, by giving him his due? Which is but to bribe a Man with his own Money.

Is it not unaccountable, that it shou'd be Fashionable and Court-like to traduce him? And that to calumniate him the most, shou'd be thought the properest means to succeed him? But it's amazing, to see the Decency of this House broke thro', to discredit him; to find, that my Lord shou'd so far call in
question

question his good Breeding, by attempting to make a poor Jest upon him; and to hear, the Value of his Victories lessen'd, by discounting 'em by the Losses of Men, that necessarily attended 'em.

What is the Duke's Crime, my Lords? Is it that of the young *Roman* Generals to win Battels without your Orders? Must he therefore conquer himself into an Impeachment? No-body can think that you are angry with him, for having done too little; no more than they can believe, that another will do so much, even, tho' you prefer the best of them who han't served well enough to be broke.

If in all that's said against the Character of this almost perfect Man, there should be found one Shade, it shows but more of the Beauty of the Excellent Piece, if there should be a fortunate Defect, it has prevented any Mixture of Flattery in his Character, and makes him shine with real Merit, and unbought Reputation.

Shake not your White Staves at me, my Lords, it was I put 'em into your ungrateful Hands, and must tell you with my usual Freedom, that tho' you are canvassing the Merits of the Duke's Actions here, we have long ago approv'd 'em, and already consecrated 'em to Immortality; tho' he seems to want Advocates here to justify 'em; we think that No-body can sufficiently admire 'em.

How lavish were those, who are now his Enemies, of Complements for the first two Campaigns, and how did they adore the *sine clade Victor*? But after the important Successes at *Blenheim*, no more decent Measures were kept with him. I was then first put upon publishing my *Annual Libel* against him; I was instructed to say, That *tho' we had beaten France, we were (then) beggar'd at Home*; to alarm your Lordships, as if *we were sinking all at once by the dark Counsels of No-body knows who*: Yet Every-body knew whose Counsels had maintain'd and advanc'd the Honour of

the Nation both at Home and Abroad to a higher pitch, than ever we pretended to before.

Since the Battel of Ramillies, Courier upon Courier has brought us so many Relations of Victories, Submissions of Towns, Countries, and successful Sieges, that we began to blame his good Fortune, for being constant; from Satire of Conquests to nauseate the General, and from an Improbability of any Miscarriage Abroad, we determin'd his Ruine at Home.

To effect this we let loose our *Fault Finders* upon him, we suffer'd 'em to scandalize his Family by way of *Novel* and *Memoirs*, to blast his Honours by *secret Histories*, to examine his Rewards in order to deface his Merits, with many other Devices of ingenious Malice. I observe too, my Lords, that the *Printing-Tool* of the Party has had lately a publick Preferment, and I conclude, from the Incouragement and Reception that the *Examiner* finds, so agreeable to his Treatment, here, that, that Paper is publish'd by Authority.

To render his Grace odious to the People, that *Club* charges him with a Receipt of 240000 Pounds of the Publick Money, upon the Account of *Blenheim House*, which, I may say, is no more his, than *St. Paul's Church* is mine. It is a publick Monument of the *British* Courage, of the Generosity of the Queen, and an Ornament of the Kingdom. If it be brought into his Account, it must be by way of Rebate, as being an expensive piece of Magnificence, an useless and insupportable Incumbrance, a perpetual Drain to his Estate, and may hereafter prove the Destruction of his Family.

But the Design of that Paper, at this Juncture, and in this Scarcity of Money, could be no other, than to direct the Mob to fire his Houses, and to plunder his Family, as if his over-proportion'd Rewards had burden'd the Subject, brought the Nation into so great a Debt, and occasion'd the present Calamity.

It happen'd, my Lords, that as my two Cousins *Anglesys*

glasse, and I were reading a News-Paper the other day;
 Monsieur *Turenne* came up to us, attended by a great
 Body of Nobility, and ask'd us, what News from *Flanders*?
 We presented him with the Address of the Uni-
 versity of *Doway* to the Duke of *Marlborough*: When
 he had read it, he ask'd us with a secret Pride, whe-
 ther this *Marlborough*, was the young, handsome *Eng-
 lish* Pupil, that he had brought up; we told him, yes.
 That Paper, said he, contains a *Bill of Merits and Ser-
 vices*, that your Exchequer can't answer. "Is it pos-
 sible then, continued this Renown'd Shade, that he
 shou'd be ill treated, or that Envy shou'd injure him
 in *Great Britain*? Can Any-body think him over-
 rewarded, or too much honour'd? Can this Man
 be said to *busband* the War, that with such a Rapi-
 dity of Conquests has compleated in five Years the
 Work of a Century? Can he be call'd the *Merchant*
 of the War, in any other Sense, than that he has un-
 dertaken the Work by the great? And like the over-
 labouring Workman, that adds the Night to the
 Day, has joyn'd the *Winter* to the *Summer's* Campaign,
 has shorten'd it by double Industry, and finish'd it
 beyond Expectation!

"These Gentlemen about me are the Shades of the
 defeated *Generals*, and those three hundred thousand
 Ghosts are part of his *Triumphs*. I remember I was
 so loaded in the other World with Honours, that
 I despis'd 'em; I had every thing so much at my
 Command, that I valu'd nothing. I let the little
 Secretary *Louvois* have the whole Revenue of the Post-
 Office, and other Profits to the Value of three hun-
 dred thousand Pounds a Year Sterling, yet my Services
 compar'd with the Duke's Wars, were nothing.

"I had only to do with the *Spaniard* and *German*,
 who were always unprepar'd and easily surpriz'd;
 he has acted against a superior Number of the best
 disciplin'd, best appointed, and provided Troops
 in the World: Led successively by all the *Marschals*
 of

of *France*, who did in a manner *prescribe* to conquer,
 and had been half a Century a Terror to *Europe*.
 I added a little to the growing Empire of *France*,
 he has reliev'd many Countries labouring under
 the Oppression of that Empire, when in its full
 Glory, retrench'd it to its ancient Bounds, and
 disarm'd it of the Power of doing wrong.

I was then the constant Subject of the Academy
 for Panegyrick. *Le Brun* design'd the Battels and
 Triumphs of *Alexander* by the favourable Represen-
 tation of my Actions, I fate to *Boileau's* Fancy, when
 he drew the Conqueror of *Namur*, and had the
 Tongues and Hearts of all my Countrymen at my
 Devotion.

I was a *Calvinist* too, yet the Clergy never durst
 palm upon me dishonourable Principles. A little
 Courtier, indeed offer'd to reflect upon me, for
 changing my Religion, for which my generous Ma-
 ster immediately presented the Gentleman with a
 Post for Life at *Marseilles*.

Happy then was I, that had *France* for my Ma-
 ster, happy is *Britain*, that has *Marlborough* for her
 Subject. It was my good Fortune to die fighting
 for my Country, which was a glorious End of my
 other Services; may it not be his, to die by the
 hands of his *ungrateful* Countrymen. This was
 what *Turenne* spoke, and it had such weight in it, that
 I hope your Lordships will excuse me for repeating it.
 Some Emiffaries, my Lords, charge the Duke with
 being the Head of a dangerous Faction, and have like
Trappistins in the Farce, by the Magical *Cant* of their
Adresses transform'd themselves into true Men, and
 metamorphos'd honest Men into Impostors. But it is
 to be hoped, that they'll make out their Case, and
 prove the foul Charge, that they have open'd; that
 they'll make some of that Guilt appear, for which
 they have already punish'd 'em; that, they'll drop no
Engage, after they have begun it; that, when they
 think

think fit to cook up an *Impeachment* out of frivolous Fallacies, they won't a second time be *non-suited*; that, they'll not only search for, but find out the *Source of all our Evils*.

The other side desires, that their Justification may be as publick, as their Charge; that, as they have been traduced to Her Majesty, they may have an Opportunity to vindicate themselves before Her. They say, my Lords, that if any Person shall be found delinquent, it is not their Principle to *participate the Guilt by protecting him*; and promise not to slur your Lordship's Judgment, by *almost an equal Negative*. In the mean time they hope, that they propose some other way to convict 'em, than by Libels to defame 'em. Substantial Proof will be necessary to make out their Allegations, for all the By-standers in *Europe*, see thro' the Contrivance; and our Countrymen will hear Reason, now they begin to feel it.

If your Lordships will spare me a word more relating to our Credit, I shan't presume to determine, who gave the fatal Blow to it, but only give you its History. At the close of the *last Parliament*, it was in its *Meridian*; upon the *Disgrace* of some great Persons, it began to decline; upon a mistaken *Message*, it recover'd a little; upon the *Explanation* of that Doubt, it sunk fast again: And as the Appearances of the Dissolution of the Parliament increas'd or diminish'd, the Credit of the Nation fluctuated backwards and forwards. The Ministry seem'd to be the Barometer of the State, and as it was up or down, you knew thereby perfectly the Condition of our Credit; but from the Dissolution of the Parliament, we may date its last Sickness and Death.

This Misfortune perhaps may have been produc'd by great Successes in *Flanders*, by the prodigious Turn of Affairs in *Spain*, and by our never so well guarded Trade. The Jealousie too, that the City entertain'd of the last Parliament may have sunk our Stocks; as the entire Confidence, they have in the present, has rais'd 'em. Who-

Whoever gave the Wound, they have undertaken to stanch the Blood, which now flows out so fast, they have promis'd to ease the Subject, and to supply the War; to prosecute which with more Success, they are providing able Generals; and to give our Arms a better Countenance abroad, you have flur'd one General in this House, and they are making *great haste* to disgrace another, whose Arms had like to have endanger'd the Restitution of *Spain* to our Ally.

For the better Management of the Treasury, they have provided more experienced Officers; to show their Frugality, they have levied a *Battalion* of 550 Men at 500 Pounds a Head; and sume Officers a great Pennyworth of 20000 Pounds.

They are willing to explain themselves fully for the *Hannover* Succession, if they could do it without danger of a Grammatical Solecism: To secure it, I see they have enlarg'd their *bottom* by converting several Non-jurors; and to support its Foundation, they have employ'd all those, that were against the Revolution, and the most Zealous Stricklers for *Hereditary Right*. To retrieve our Credit, they offer'd to *postpone* the Consideration of the Payment of *unprovided Debts*; and *B—ly's* too early Motion has convinc'd us, that they have nothing less in their Thoughts, than the *Sponge*.

Let us not asperse the *Ruin'd Party* with *Reproaches*; at this juncture, they, my Lords, are too honest, not to assist their Queen and Country under this Calamity; they are too well affected, not to fight the Ship stoutly, because it is the Queen's; and too wise not to work hard at the Pump, to save their own Lives, tho' they have the Misfortune to be embark'd together with such a Crew.

These things, my Lords, disturb my Sleep, as the Loss of his Legions did *Augustus's*: RESTORE THEN OUR CREDIT, or this can't be the last Speech, that I must make within these Walls.

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